

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 011585

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, JM

SUBJECT: KINGSTON VIOLENCE

1. DEPARTMENT HAS APPRECIATED EMBASSY'S PROMPT REPORTING ON THE RECENT RIOTINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS IN KINGSTON. GIVEN HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN THE EVOLVING JAMAICAN SITUATION, WE WOULD NOW APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF THE PRESENT OUTLOOK AND ANY TRENDS THAT APPEAR TO BE EMERGING.

2. QUESTIONS WHICH OCCUR TO US INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING: (A) DIRECTION IN WHICH MANLEY IS MOST LIKELY TO TURN IN RESPONDING TO THIS VIOLENCE (MANLEY'S EARLY RESPONSE SUGGESTS HE IS YIELDING TO THE LEFT, WHEREAS HE MIGHT HAVE CHOSEN TO CLAMP DOWN ON THIS GROUP. WILL HE USE THE VIOLENCE AS AN EXCUSE TO ATTEMPT TO CRUSH HIS OPPOSITION; (B) IS MANLEY PREPARING TO ALTER THE ELECTORAL PROCESS THROUGH MARTIAL LAW OR OTHER MEASURES; (C) WHAT ARE SPAULDING'S MOTIVES IN EXPANDING HIS POWER WITHIN

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THE GHETTO AREA; IS HE PREPARED TO CONTEST MANLEY

OPENLY FOR LEADERSHIP OF THE PNP; (D) ARE THERE COUNTER-BALANCING FORCES LIKELY TO COME INTO PLAY WITHIN THE PNP AND WITHIN JAMAICAN SOCIETY TO CHECK MANLEY'S LEFTWARD DRIFT AND SPAULDING'S EXCESSES; (E) HOW FAR ARE SEAGA AND THE JLP WILLING TO GO IN OPPOSING MANLEY AND THE PNP--IS THERE A POSSIBILITY OF THE JLP STEPPING UP ITS LEVEL OF VIOLENCE IN RESPONSE TO MANLEY'S ACTIONS; AND (F) IN 1972, MANLEY SOUGHT OFFICE CAMPAIGNING AGAINST INFLATION, CRIME AND UNEMPLOYMENT--COULD THE JLP WIN AN ELECTION NOW ON THE SAME ISSUES, OR IS THE MANLEY CHARISMA INTACT? KISSINGER

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